

In the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 12.

Attachments: (1) Replacement Sheets
(1) Annotated Sheets

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Fig. 12 of the formal drawings filed on November 22, 2004 has been amended to correct an inadvertent error. The corrected drawing places Fig. 12 in the form originally presented in the informal drawings filed with the application on November 26, 2003,

The specification and claims 9 and 18 have been amended in the manner required in the Office Action.

Claims 1-8 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended in a readily apparent manner to address this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Hatanaka et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection with respect to independent claims 1 and 9, because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) the claimed deflector positioned above the outlet of the wind tunnel for deflecting coffee beans carried by the airflow exiting the wind tunnel. The rejection with respect to claim 15 is traversed because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) a smoke vent attachment which is removably mounted on the cover for removing smoke exiting through the opening on the cover.

The Hatanaka et al. reference discloses a coffee bean roaster which provides both radiant and convection heating for roasting coffee beans. The roaster includes a glass pipe (14) which fits into a roasting chamber (1). A hopper attached to the top of the pipe for

delivering unroasted coffee beans into the roasting chamber. A shutter (17) opens and closes to allow coffee beans in the hopper to be dropped into the roasting chamber.

The roaster also includes a channel separation cylinder (13) arranged generally concentric with the glass pipe and is spaced above the bottom of the roasting chamber. Coffee beans are carried through the channel separation cylinder by a hot airflow generated at the bottom of the roasting chamber, and exit the channel separation cylinder through an outlet at the top.

In the present invention, a wind tunnel is provided over an air opening for increasing the speed of airflow in the roasting chamber as the airflow passes through the wind tunnel. In addition, a deflector is positioned above the outlet of the wind tunnel for deflecting the coffee beans carried by the airflow exiting the wind tunnel. The channel separation cylinder of Hatanaka et al. includes an inlet opening through which the beans enter and an outlet opening through which the beans exit the channel separation cylinder. As clearly shown in Fig. 1 of the reference, the device of Hatanaka et al. does not disclose (or suggest) any means, i.e., a deflector, for deflecting the coffee beans that exit from the channel separation cylinder, as in the present invention. For this reason, independent claims 1 and 9, and their respective dependent 3-8 and 11-14, are allowable over the cited reference.

As described in claim 15, the present invention also includes a cover seated on the top of the roasting chamber and includes at least one opening for allowing smoke from the roasting chamber to exit through the hole. A smoke vent attachment is removably mounted on the cover for receiving smoke exiting through the opening on the cover.

The device of Hatanaka et al. includes a structure 15 which is attached to the top of the glass pipe (14) and connected to a hopper (16). A shutter (17) is provided between the hopper (16) and the structure 15 for allowing coffee beans to be deposited in the roasting chamber (1). In operation, “fresh coffee beans in a predetermined amount, for example are put into the roasting chamber (1) through the projection hopper (16) by opening the shutter (17), and the shutter (17) is closed” (emphasis added) (pg. 6, second paragraph).

The Hatanaka et al. reference clearly and expressly states that the structure (16) is a “projection hopper for putting fresh coffee beans into the roasting chamber (1).” It does not disclose or suggest that the structure (16) is anything but a hopper, let alone a smoke vent attachment. Moreover, the structure (15) is connected to the projection hopper by a shutter which is open only to deposit coffee beans into the roasting chamber and then “the shutter (17) is closed.” Accordingly, the structure (15) does not disclose the claimed opening provided on the cover for allowing smoke from the roasting chamber to exit, since the shutter (17) is closed during the operation when smoke would be produced.

Further, the claimed smoke vent attachment is removably mounted on the cover. The Hatanaka et al. reference also does not disclose or suggest this feature of the invention, even assuming that the hopper (16) can be considered to disclose the smoke vent attachment. In other words, the reference does not disclose (or suggest) that the hopper (16) can be removed from the structure 15.

Claim 15 also requires that the vent attachment be configured to be removably connected to an elongated vent pipe for channeling the smoke away from the roaster.

Nowhere does the Hatanaka et al. reference disclose or suggest that the hopper 16 is configured to be removably connected to an elongated vent pipe.

Concerning the position stated in the Office Action that the cover (15) is “capable” of allowing smoke from the roasting chamber to exit therefrom and that the hopper (16) is “capable” of functioning a smoke vent attachment. This capability is not disclosed either expressly or inherently in the Hatanaka et al. reference. To anticipate a claim, the reference itself must teach every element of the claim. If, in fact, the cover (15) is “capable” of allowing smoke to exit, and the hopper (16) is “capable” of functioning as a smoke vent attachment, this has to be disclosed in the reference itself. These capabilities simply are not described in the cited reference with respect to the cover (15) or the hopper (16). For all these reasons, claim 15 and its dependent claims 16-18 are also allowable over the cited reference.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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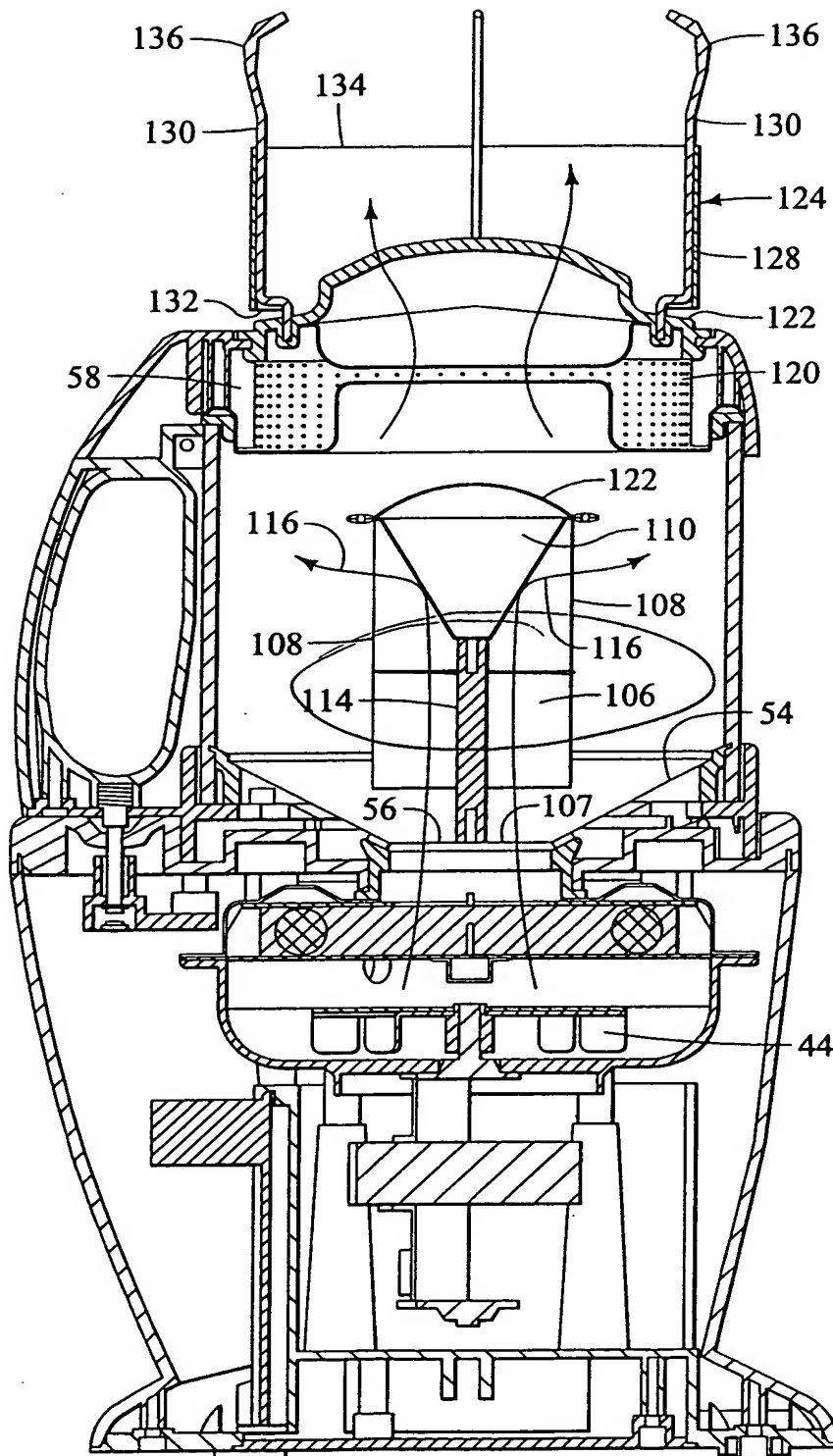


FIG. 12